



National EAS Test

November 9, 2011 2 pm EST



History of the Emergency Alert System

- The Emergency Alert System (EAS) is a public alert and warning system that leverages the communications assets of terrestrial broadcasters, cable television systems, wireless cable systems, satellite digital audio radio service (SDARS) providers, direct broadcast satellite (DBS) services and wire line video service providers to allow the President of the United States the capability to address the American public during a national emergency.
- This system must be available under all conditions. The system is also used by state and local authorities to deliver important emergency information, such as AMBER alerts.
- The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), National Weather Service (NWS) regularly uses the system to disseminate emergency weather alerts and advisories.
- The Emergency Alert System (EAS) was created in 1994. It is the latest in a series of alert and warning systems that began with the Control of Electromagnetic Radiation (CONELRAD) program, established by President Harry Truman in 1951.
- The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) created the EAS in 1994 and began enforcing requirements that mandated all broadcast stations to have EAS equipment installed in 1997.
- By 2001, cable systems were required to have EAS equipment installed to override all program channels with a national-level EAS message, also known as an Emergency Action Notification (EAN).